



# St Mark's

## Coronavirus Update - 02.03.21

Dear Parent and Caregivers

St Mark's made a smooth transition back into Alert Level 2 yesterday. My thanks to all our families for all your support of our contact tracing measures and extra considerations while we are in Level 2. We appreciate that there is a great deal of information that is circulated in the news and from the Ministry and we aim to provide you with regular updates and reminders through emails such as this and our regular school communication tools. I would like to reassure the St Mark's community that we are well-prepared as a Preschool and School. We continue to have excellent communication with the Ministry of Education who are in daily contact with us, and all schools, around the COVID situation. Some of the information you will read today is from the Ministry of Education directly.

Some information that we would like to update and remind families are about what is on or off with school activities this week and information pertaining to families who may have family members returning from Auckland.

### **Alert Level 2 – Staff and Students Returning from Auckland**

There is no requirement for staff and students recently returning from Auckland to other parts of New Zealand to go into self-isolation. At Alert Level 2 schools are open and everyone should be attending. The exceptions are anyone who is:

- Unwell
- Self-isolating (at the request of health authorities)
- Waiting for COVID test results (but only if advised by health authorities that they can't return to school until the test result comes back).

Unless recent visitors to Auckland have been at [contact tracing locations of interest](#) at the times specified, or meet one of the above criteria, they must

### **Reminder: Wearing of Face Coverings on Buses**

If you have students aged 12 and over who are using **public transport** to get to and from school, please remind them that they are legally required to wear face coverings at Alert Level 2.

Students on **all other school buses** do not have to wear a face-covering if you do not want to. This includes buses or vans chartered or used by schools to carry children, students and staff.

A friendly reminder that there are a number of safety precautions I would like to remind families to follow so as to protect the wellbeing of everyone in our community. These were outlined in the [Alert Level 2 notice](#) sent out on the St Mark's App on Sunday 28 February. Further, could I please remind families that if you are picking up or dropping off your child/ren up the school drive, or to Preschool or in the Birdcage, then you must sign in please using the contact tracer app or physically sign in using the clipboard that staff on duty will be holding.

Please consider dropping and collecting your child from the bottom of the drive. If it is essential for you to come into the school buildings through the day, please sign in at Reception. Preschool families should continue to follow the sign-in procedures laid out by the Preschool staff.

### **Events at St Mark's**

#### **Continuing this week:**

- Touch Rugby: continues this week but no spectators are allowed and there is some adjustment to times. Please see Comms or emails from Mr Leggett for more information
- Camps in Week 8 (Year 6) and Week 10 (Year 5) are able to continue at Level 2, providing certain procedures are met by the Camps. Teachers will be in touch regarding any changes to arrangements
- Choirs and bands continue but will be held in the Chapel so there is extra space to spread out
- Assembly and Chapel services will be online while in Level 2.

#### **Cancelled this week:**

- There will be no Paddle Pop Day, bake sales or sausage sizzles this week, or under Level 2
- Floorball: we can confirm that the weekly Floorball competition (Thursday 4 March) has been cancelled and that the games will carry over until next week

If your child is part of an extracurricular activity that is not in the above list, the teacher in charge will be in touch with you about whether that activity is going ahead.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the [COVID19.govt.nz website](https://www.covid19.govt.nz).

Please be in touch with your Homeroom or Specialist teacher around any concerns to learning in Level 2 or contact Deputy Principal **Mrs Erica Harvison** at [erica.harvison@st-marks.school.nz](mailto:erica.harvison@st-marks.school.nz) around any pastoral concerns or organisation queries. I thank families again for their ongoing support around COVID and this latest development.

Kia Kaha - We are St Mark's!

Nga mihi nui

**Kent Favel** | Principal

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